

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter
Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Questions about a City Department, program or issue? Suggestion? Email your comment to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com and you'll receive an immediate response, or we'll find the right person who can answer your question.

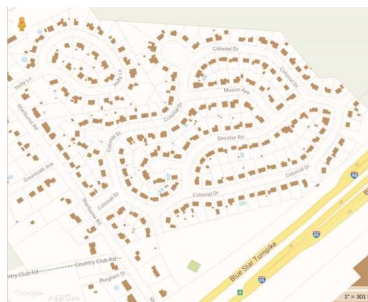
THURS MAR 10 MIDDLE STREET BIKE LANES PUBLIC MEETING AT 6:30 PM - In City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Zoom registration, click here. https://tinyurl.com/4e6a92s8

LIGHTS FOR UKRAINE
"Lighting the bridge is a symbol that Portsmouth stands with the people of Ukraine as they fight to defend their home and their freedom in the face of unimaginable odds."
Mayor Daaglan McEachern
Portsmouth
WMUR 9

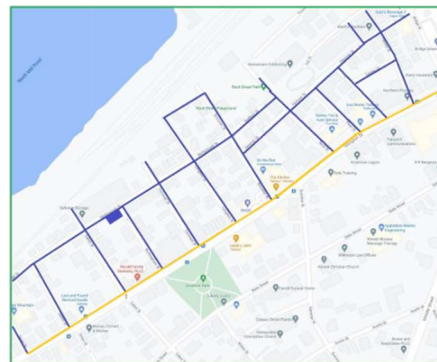
TURN ON THE LIGHTS
presented by THE PRESS ROOM
An Evening to support Skateboarding
WEDNESDAY MARCH 9TH 6:00-9:00
TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE SKATEBOARD PARK LIGHTS \$3.00 COVER CHARGE ALL AGES WELCOME PRIZES? RAFFLE? COME AND SEE
EST. 1976 77 DANIEL ST PORTSMOUTH NH
SKATEPARK OF PORTSMOUTH ESTABLISHED 2021

In answer to those who have asked, there are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Be sure to verify that your donations are going where you intend, as situations like this always produce scams. You might consider one of these: https://tinyurl.com/2mtsejuh

WED MAR 9 AT THE PRESS ROOM, 6-9 PM SKATEPARK FUNDRAISER - While the City Council voted to earmark funds for the immediate design and future construction of the Skatepark on Rte. 33, a group of friends of the skatepark is raising money independently to pay for the lighting that is an expense outside of the project budget. This event and other future fundraisers are intended to cover the lighting cost.



TONIGHT: PANNAWAY MANOR SIDEWALKS PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING In person in City Hall Conference Room A at 6:30 pm and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. https://tinyurl.com/36dc27kt



DEADLINE FRI MAR 11 FOR ISLINGTON CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM SURVEY -- The Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) pilot launched

on August 4, 2021 and was extended beyond its original end date of February 4, 2022 to April 4, 2022 in order to collect and report feedback on the program, including the results of this survey of NPP pilot participants. To participate in the survey, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/59uuf7hw>

WED MAR 16: SPECIAL PARKING & TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING ON NPP AT 6:30 PM – In-person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/47dcyuzh>

DEADLINE FRI MAR 11 FOR PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS, OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE PORTSMOUTH RESIDENTS --

Scholarship application season is now underway, with a **deadline of March 11, 2022 at 3:30 pm for all applications** to be submitted. **The five Portsmouth Community Scholarships are open to any Portsmouth resident who is a graduating senior.** Portsmouth students attending private schools and homeschool programs are eligible to apply, as well as Portsmouth residents attending Portsmouth High School. All applicants should review the criteria in the 2022 Scholarship Booklet: <https://tinyurl.com/2p89744j> and follow the instructions for the online application process outlined here: <https://tinyurl.com/2escyvz7>

WEEKDAYS MAR 7-16: UNION ST & MILLER AVE ROAD WORK --

As part of the Union Street and Willard Avenue Projects, borings are needed to collect data about the soils and bedrock in the project area. The work will reduce roads to one travel lane. Flaggers will be in place and delays may be expected from 7 am to 4 pm daily, through March 16. For more information on this project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfnp6ex>

COVID-19 DASHBOARD 3/8/22			
	Mar 8	Mar 1	Feb 23
NH Positivity	3.2%	5.5%	7.6%
Rockingham Positivity	3.1%	4.4%	7.5%
Portsmouth Positivity	4.8%	6.2%	8.2%
NH Active Cases	984	1,399	1,998
Rockingham Active	138	236	219
Portsmouth Active	13	16	21
Omicron Variant in NH	1,475	1,368	1,668
VACCINATION		Done 1	Fully Vaccinated
NH		87.7%	65.1%
Rockingham County		64.9%	57.5%
Portsmouth		78.1%	68.5%



Why Are these Maps Different? Keep in mind the risk you may pose to those who cannot be vaccinated. To determine the COVID-19 community level, CDC looks at the combination of three metrics:

- new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days
- the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients
- total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

The CovidActNow.com site uses data from CDC, each State's DHHS and trend models to determine their presentation of COVID risk based on these three metrics:

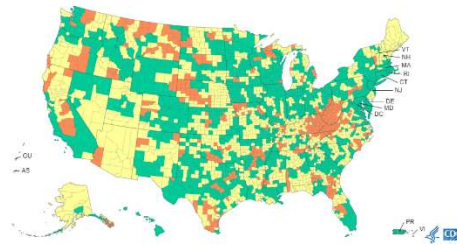
- Daily new cases per 100,000 people (NY Times data)
- Infection rate based on 14-day trends (NY Times data)
- Positivity rate (NH DHHS data)



NH dashboard: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/summary.htm>
 US map: <https://covidactnow.com>. Send questions via help@tinyurl.com

REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD – For a larger PDF, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2hkaxzmy>

Data provided by CDC
 Updated: March 3, 2022



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK -- On February 25, 2022, CDC updated its mask guidance and created an online tool -- COVID-19 Community Levels -- to help communities and residents decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. **The City Manager encourages the use of masks indoors in City facilities. Please note that masks are still required in the Portsmouth Public Library.** The free N95 masks supplied by the Federal government are now available at the following local pharmacies:

- CVS, 674 Islington St. at checkout, not pharmacy
- Rite-Aid, 800 Islington St., at checkout, not pharmacy
- Rite-Aid, 1303 Woodbury Ave., at pharmacy
- Walmart, 2460 Lafayette Rd., at doors and Service Desk

NH DHHS TO CLOSE DAILY WALK-IN VACCINATION & BOOSTER CLINICS MAR 15 – Rochester, Spaulding Commons, 306 N. Main Street. **NEW HOURS: Mon-Sat, 12 noon-7pm, closed on Sundays.** For additional local pharmacies and same-day sites, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk>

AARP TAX PREP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
 AARP Tax Prep is drop-off only this year. Envelopes are available at the Senior Activity Center and Portsmouth Public Library, and **drop-offs should be made at the Senior Center ONLY, February 1 – April 10, during the following times:**

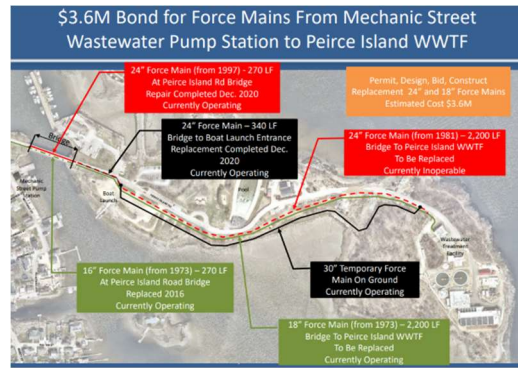
- **Sundays, 11 am – 12 noon**
- **Tuesdays, 4-5 pm**

For detailed instructions on what you need for filing, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ee45>

PORTSMOUTH
**Tourism
 Summit
 2022**

CHAMBER COLLABORATIVE TOURISM SUMMIT WED MAR 23, 8 to 11 AM at Jimmy's Jazz Club – Free admission. For information and registration, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/2hrbu64z>

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING WED MAR 23 AT 6:30 PM – In person at the Portsmouth Public Library Levenson Room or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr39wwuj>



PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD WORK FOR SEWER FORCE MAINS PROJECT -- Work continues on the project to replace the force mains to the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. <https://tinyurl.com/4urpjskz>

That work requires closing Peirce Island Road, parking and trail access beyond the Outdoor Pool, on a daily basis, 7 am to 4 pm. The public is advised that access is obstructed in the area past the pool.

NEW ENGLAND MUSICIANS RELIEF FUND OFFERING GRANTS -- NEMRF continues to help musicians facing extraordinary hardship during the pandemic and beyond. “To date we have received over 500 applications, and most of those have been granted,” NEMRF said. “We do plan to be a part of the musical community in New England for a long time to come.” The New England Musicians Relief Fund is currently accepting applications. Apply at: <https://www.nemrf.org/apply>

FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions. **NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>

FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON–**Note: This site is closed when school is closed because of weather.** Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the parking lot behind the JC Penney store. 48-hour results. For other free testing centers, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs>

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS –Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/>

WEEKLY FREE LUNCH REMINDERS:

- **Middle Street Baptist Church** – Seacoast Community Lunch brown bag lunches from the parking lot (18 Court St.), 12 noon to 1 pm

PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL ADULT LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS – This Learn to Swim program includes four half-hour sessions on Apr 4, 6, 11 & 13, 5:30-7:30 pm. For adults over 18) for \$25 per person. For more information and registration, click here: <https://rec.cityofportsmouth.com/Default.aspx?id=2>

RUTH LEWIN GRIFFIN PLACE AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPLICATION SITE NOW OPEN! The Portsmouth Housing Authority development, now under construction, features 48 one-bedroom apartments and 16 two-bedroom units. The units will be available to people who meet income requirements. Starting rent for the one-bedrooms units is \$950 a month, while starting rent for the two-bedroom units is \$1,200. To apply to rent one of the apartments, visit <https://cityoftheopendoor.com/>

on Wednesdays. For more information call 603-436-2337 or email lunch@middle.st

- **St. John's Church** -- Common Table bag lunch pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

GATHER COMMUNITY MARKET, FRIDAYS,

10 am – 1 pm – A FREE market for all. No paperwork. No ID. No one is ever turned away. Located at the NH National Guard building, 801 McGee Drive in Portsmouth.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). For example, one of the current job openings is: *Urban Forestry Associate*. This May 9 – August 29, 2022 paid internship is an ideal job for students planning to work in the landscaping sector, agriculture, the natural resource arena, forestry, horticulture, or in environmental education. Individual will gain hands-on experience maintaining tree plantings throughout the City and interacting with residents to promote urban tree care.

The City offers a generous compensation and benefits package that includes retirement, generous paid time off including vacation, holidays, medical & dental insurance, flexible spending account, professional development, career growth, longevity incentives, and more! For details and to apply, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 ACCEPTING OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER APPLICATIONS

– Organizations, groups and anyone planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit an Official Program Partner Application.

<https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm>

The goals of the Application Process are:

- To help Portsmouth NH 400 Management Team keep track of events, projects and programs (including any fund-raising efforts in 2022)
- To maintain a central calendar on the [PortsmouthNH400.org](https://www.portsmouthnh400.org) website
- To connect organizations and artists who seem to be working on similar themes and ideas
- To coordinate fund-, fun- and friend-raising efforts

- To coordinate marketing efforts

Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate!

For more details, visit:

<https://www.PortsouthNH400.org>

EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES

ASSISTANCE – The [NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (NHERAP) provides funds to renters who cannot pay their rent and utilities during the pandemic. The program works with tenants and landlords. Program changes as of October 1, 2021:

- Households may qualify for assistance for past-due and future rent and utility payments for a period not to exceed 18 months.
- At least one person in the household must have qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship during the pandemic. Certain income requirements must be met.

WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS

- Past-due rent including reasonable late and legal fees.
- Three months of future rent payments if needed for housing stability.
- Utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash.
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses (including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits).
- Households may qualify for utility assistance even if they do not receive or need rental assistance.

For more information on whether you qualify and how to apply for emergency funds available to renters in NH, click here: <https://www.capnh.org/covid19>

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a tool (click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4>) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP).



RECENTLY UPDATED:

- **MASK FAQs**, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/mask-faqs>
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

KIDS AND COVID FAQs, [click here](#)

POST-VACCINATION FAQs – For the latest information on breakthrough infections, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse>

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND – For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk>

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywc6ab>

CITY HALL FACEBOOK PAGE:
Like and follow us to get news as it's posted:
<https://www.facebook.com/CityHallPortsmouthNH>

Want to know more about what's happening in the City? Click on the QR code or link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>

